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November 26, 2001

Chuck Semborski, Environmental Supervisor  
Energy West Mining Company  
P.O. Box 310  
Huntington, Utah 84528

Re: Conditional Approval of Permit Area Reduction, PacifiCorp, Des Bee Dove Mine,  
C/015/017-AM00D

Dear Mr. Semborski:

The above-referenced amendment is conditionally approved upon receipt of three additional clean copies prepared for incorporation. Please submit these copies by December 17, 2001. Once we receive these copies, final approval will be granted.

A stamped incorporated copy of the approved plans will also be returned to you at that time, for insertion into your copy of the Mining and Reclamation Plan. A copy of our Technical Analysis is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please call me at (801) 538-5268 or Susan at (801) 538-5258.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Pamela Grubaugh-Littig'.

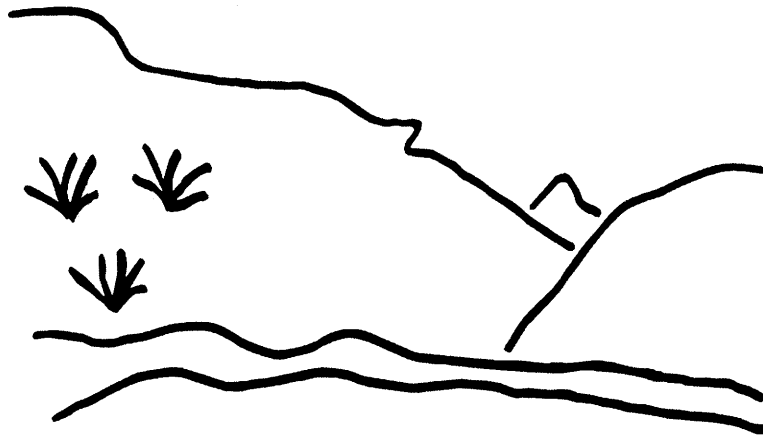
Pamela Grubaugh-Littig  
Permit Supervisor

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cc: Price Field Office

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# State of Utah



## Utah Oil Gas and Mining

### Coal Regulatory Program

Des Bee Dove Mine  
Permit Area Reduction  
C/015/017- AM00D-1  
Technical Analysis  
November 20, 2001

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## INTRODUCTION

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# TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

## INTRODUCTION

This amendment, AM00D, proposes to reduce the permit area from 2760 acres to 147 acres. Mining ceased at this site in 1987.

The amendment contains no deficiencies; however, all information relating to the permit area reduction is appended into Volume 1, Part 1 rather than providing information in a format that can be inserted into the respective sections, such as Engineering, Geology, and Hydrology. This fragments the MRP and makes information harder to locate, but with this site being in reclamation, the review team did not consider it to be worth another round of deficiencies and responses just to get this information properly located in the MRP.

## GENERAL CONTENTS

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF UNSUITABILITY CLAIMS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 778.16; 30 CFR 779.12(a); 30 CFR 779.24(a)(b)(c); R645-300-121.120; R645-301-112.800; R645-300-141; R645-301-115.

#### Analysis:

The applicant is PacifiCorp, an Oregon corporation. PacifiCorp is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Scottish Power, a foreign corporation. Energy West Mining Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of PacifiCorp is the operator. The application gives the name, address and telephone number of the applicant and operator (page 2). The resident agent is identified as Charles Semborski. Employer I.D. Number is 99-0246090. PacifiCorp will pay the abandoned mine reclamation fee.

Ownership and control information is in Appendix A. The names, addresses, permit numbers, regulatory authorities, and MSHA numbers together with dates of issuance for coal mining and reclamation operations owned or controlled by the applicant is found in section R645-301-112.400.

Section R645-301-112.600 list surface and subsurface owners of record contiguous to the permit area. Section R645-301-114 list right of entry information and shows the surface ownership information. Since the operator has a reclamation permit, no subsurface ownership information is required (although Plate 1-1 shows coal ownership of the permit area).

PacifiCorp is owner of fee surface and coal rights contiguous to the permit area. There are no holders of record of any leasehold interest in areas affected by surface operations of facilities or coal to be mined other than oil and gas leases and grazing permits.

Section R645-301-114 list right of entry information and shows the surface ownership information. The surface lands are owned and controlled by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State of Utah, and PacifiCorp.

#### Findings:

Information provided in the application is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **RIGHT OF ENTRY**

Regulatory Reference: R645-301-114

### **Analysis:**

Section R645-301-114 list right of entry information and shows the surface ownership information. The surface lands are owned and controlled by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State of Utah, and PacifiCorp.

### **Findings:**

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to meet the requirements of this section.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: Pub. L 95-87 Sections 507(b), 508(a), and 516(b); 30 CFR 783., et. al.

### SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

#### Analysis:

##### Performance standards for subsidence control

The permittee divided the subsidence areas for all their permitted areas into subsections that can cover part of one mine or parts of several mines. The subsections are listed by area number in the annual subsidence report. The Division reviewed the subsidence information in the annual report for each area in the Des-Bee-Dove mine permit area. The results are as follows:

##### Area 8

Parts of Area 8 may have subsided without detection due to lack of subsidence monitoring before 1989. The subsidence profile show a fair amount of variability that is due to the rugged terrain. The profiles show that no major subsidence has occurred in the past five years.

##### Area 9 and 10

Those areas cover the north section of the Little Dove Mine and the abandoned American Fuel Mine. Subsidence has been monitored for since 1987 although mining in the area had occurred previously. Subsidence has been stable since 1994 and subsidence monitoring is no longer required by the Division.

##### Area 13

Figures 39 and 41 in the 1999 Annual Subsidence Report shows the area monitored for subsidence in the Southern Areas Mine Workings and the subsidence profiles. Because of problems with aerial triangulations and no subsidence monitoring points install before 1986, the amount of subsidence is difficult to determine. However, the subsidence data shows that subsidence has been stable since 1994.

A brief summary of subsidence information was given in the September 24, 2001 submittal. Room-and-pillar mining was used to extract the coal. Room-and-pillar mining reduces the amount of subsidence that will occur because of pillar left in place when compared to longwall mining. However, the time required for subsidence to occur is much longer because the pillars can fail over a long time.

The only problem noted from subsidence in the area is minor cracks. In the September 24, 2001 submittal the Permittee included a table of predicted verse observed subsidence. The results from four sites show that the difference between the predicted and observed subsidence is no more than 12%. That

observation indicates that subsidence has either stopped or that only minor amounts of subsidence will occur in the future.

**Findings:**

The Permittee has met the minimum requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

**Analysis:**

An amendment to reduce the permit area should include an assessment of hydrology data relative to the impact projections and trends contained within the PHC and CHIA, and show that impacts have been minimized in the permit area and impacts have been minimized and material damage has not occurred in adjacent areas, which includes the area to be removed from the permit. (In other words, has the permittee provided sufficient information and analysis to allow the Division to make a finding that there has been no material damage in the area to be removed from the permit?)

Hydrologic Information in Volume 1, Part 1, Appendix F states that, according to the PHC and CHIA, hydrologic impacts associated with the Des-Bee-Dove Mine were projected to be negligible. Raw data are in the 2000 Annual Report, and supportive information is in the Supplemental Information section for the Relinquishment of Federal Acreage, East Mountain Logical Unit, June 12, 1995 on pages 7 and 10-11.

Spring 85-51 is the only spring found in the Des-Bee-Dove permit area, and this spring does not appear to have changed because of mining. Flow data from 1983 to 2000 are summarized in the Hydrologic Information section of Volume 1, Part 1, Appendix F. Seasonal fluctuations at 85-51 are proportionate to precipitation, as shown on the graph included in the Hydrologic Information.

Underground mining at Des-Bee-Dove has never intercepted ground water. Therefore, there has never been discharge to surface drainages. Drainages at Des-Bee-Dove are ephemeral, flowing only in response to precipitation or snowmelt. No impacts to surface water have ever been reported within the Des-Bee-Dove area.

Analysis or assessment of available data show that onsite impacts have been minimized and that offsite impacts and material damage have been prevented.

**Findings:**

Operation Plan Hydrologic Information in this amendment to the MRP is adequate to meet the requirements of the Coal Mining Rules.



RECLAMATION PLAN

# RECLAMATION PLAN

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Reference: PL 95-87 Sec. 515 and 516; 30 CFR Sec. 784.13, 784.14, 784.15, 784.16, 784.17, 784.18, 784.19, 784.20, 784.21, 784.22, 784.23, 784.24, 784.25, 784.26; R645-301-231, -301-233, -301-322, -301-323, -301-331, -301-333, -301-341, -301-342, -301-411, -301-412, -301-422, -301-512, -301-513, -301-521, -301-522, -301-525, -301-526, -301-527, -301-528, -301-529, -301-531, -301-533, -301-534, -301-536, -301-537, -301-542, -301-623, -301-624, -301-625, -301-626, -301-631, -301-632, -301-731, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-746, -301-764, -301-830.

### Analysis:

Information in Volume 1, Part 1, Appendix F indicate that all wells, exploration holes, or bore holes have been cased and sealed, capped, sealed, or backfilled. The Exploration Drill Site Information section includes a letter from the USFS stating that EM-2, EM-3, EM-6, EM-9, EM-11c, EM-12c, CM-3, and CM-6 were satisfactorily reclaimed. This section also contains drilling reports for CM-5 and CM-7 that show they were cemented. The Lease Relinquishment Information section contains a letter from the BLM stating that to the best of their knowledge, all known exploration drill holes have been plugged and reclaimed.

### Findings:

Information in Volume 1, Part 1, Appendix F on casing and sealing of exploration holes and bore holes is adequate to meet the requirements of the Coal Mining Rules.

## APPROXIMATE ORIGINAL CONTOUR RESTORATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.15, 785.16, 817.102, 817.107, 817.133; R645-301-234, -301-270, -301-271, -301-412, -301-413, -301-512, -301-531, -301-533, -301-553, -301-536, -301-542, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-764.

### Analysis:

No surface disturbance occurred in the area scheduled to be removed from the permit boundary. Therefore, the Division considers that all backfilling and grading requirements have been met or are irrelevant.

### Findings:

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit area reduction.

## **BACKFILLING AND GRADING**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 785.15, 817.102, 817.107; R645-301-234, -301-537, -301-552, -301-553, -302-230, -302-231, -302-232, -302-233.

### **Analysis:**

No surface disturbance occurred in the area scheduled to be removed from the permit boundary. Therefore, the Division considers that all backfilling and grading requirements have been met or are irrelevant.

### **Findings:**

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit area reduction.

## **MINE OPENINGS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 817.13, 817.14, 817.15; R645-301-513, -301-529, -301-551, -301-631, -301-748, -301-765, -301-748.

### **Analysis:**

All mine openings will still be in the permit area. The portals have all been sealed. No known access to the underground working exists.

### **Findings:**

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit area reduction.

## **HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.14, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-301-512, -301-513, -301-514, -301-515, -301-532, -301-533, -301-542, -301-723, -301-724, -301-725, -301-726, -301-728, -301-729, -301-731, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-751, -301-760, -301-761.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Discharges into an underground mine**

No discharges into underground workings are known to occur in the permit area.

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RECLAMATION PLAN

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**Gravity discharges**

No gravity discharges from underground workings are known to occur in the permit area.

**Findings:**

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit area reduction.

**MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF RECLAMATION OPERATIONS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-323, -301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731.

**Analysis:**

**Affected area boundary maps**

The Division usually considers the affected area boundary maps and the permit boundary maps to be equivalent. The Division considers the Des-Bee-Dove Mines Surface Ownership Map, Map 1-2, of the Permit Area to be both the permit area and affected area boundary map. The permit areas are shown in relationship to section corners so that the locations can be identified. The permit area boundary is also shown on Maps 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4.

Currently, the mine area disturbed drainage leaves the disturbed area and permit area below the Tipple Valley Fill and then re-enters the permit area and the disturbed area for treatment in the sediment pond. In a letter dated August 29, 2001 to the Permittee, the Division allowed the Permittee to not permit this drainage.

Map 1-1, shows the location of two remote portal breakouts that have been reclaimed. The breakouts will remain in the permit area.

**Bonded area map**

The bonded area is equivalent to the disturbed area shown on proposed Map 1-2, Des-Bee-Dove Mines Surface Ownership Map. The map shows the location of the disturbed area boundaries. Plate CM-10658-DS, Des-Bee-Dove Coal Mines Disturbed Area Boundary Map, is the disturbed area map in the currently approved MRP. That map has a scale of 1" = 400' and the new map has scales that range from 1" = 300' to 1" = 500'.

**Findings:**

Information provided in the application is considered adequate to satisfy the requirements of this section of the regulations.

## **BONDING AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 800; R645-301-800, et seq.

### **Analysis:**

#### **Determination of bond amount**

The area to be released from the permit area does not contain any areas scheduled to have reclamation work done. Therefore, reclamation costs were not calculated for those areas. When those areas are removed from the permit area, the Division will not need to recalculate the bond.

### **Findings:**

The requirements of this section of the regulations are considered adequate in regard to the proposed permit area reduction.

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